

Unusual feeding behaviour by an adult seven-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* L.—On the morning of 30 July 1994 I observed an adult *C. septempunctata* rapidly consuming an alate aphid which was trapped in a spider's web, close to the surface of a window pane. This took place on the outside of an east-facing window of The Lodge, Erpingham House Farm (TG199321), East Norfolk. The aphid was entangled in the sparse remains of the web, and was presumably moribund or dead before the ladybird began consuming this unlikely breakfast! The beetle soon finished feeding and moved away in search of further prey. This observation followed a period of hot and largely dry weather, with many adult *C. septempunctata* and adult *Episyrphus balteatus* Deg. in evidence around the North Norfolk area, presumably following their mass emergence from local cereal fields where their larvae had been feeding on cereal aphids.—IAN F. G. MCLEAN, 109 Miller Way, Bampton, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 8TZ.

The cicada and the copper underwing. I would like to report a remarkable interaction between a cicada (*Cicadetta* sp.) and a copper underwing moth (*Amphipyra pyramidea*) witnessed during August 1996 in the Cévennes mountains of France. It was whilst I was videoing a singing (male) cicada on a lichen-encrusted bole of a cherry tree that I realized that I was also videoing a cryptically camouflaged copper underwing at rest. I had had the cicada filling the frame for a few minutes, when it flew off and alighted about 25 cm away on a side branch to the rear of the resting moth, about 1 cm away. With the video still running, and the cicada still singing, it remained on the branch next to the moth, then slowly walked alongside. After a few minutes it then flew to the main trunk, and then again back to the branch by the moth whilst turning a full 360 degrees pirouetting beside it. All this behaviour was carried out whilst the cicada continued to sing. Its representations to the moth were repetitive and extraordinary to the extent that it appeared to override its usual behaviour of distancing itself from someone such as myself and my whirring machine getting too close. Cicadas are usually very difficult to approach and will slink away from the observer, gliding over the surface of the bark in the opposite direction with ease, but in this case it was moving past me, whilst I was filming this bizarre sequence only 50 cm away. The video sequence ran virtually continuously with only two cuts whilst I changed my position, and stands as a record of this totally unpredicted event.

On reflection it is uncanny that there are four points of similarity between the cicada and the moth: (i) they are both approximately the same length at rest (the cicada is slightly longer); (ii) they are both the same grey colour at rest; (iii) they both show off a fairly similar profile on the bark when at rest, and (iv) they both fly showing orange (in the case of the cicada its abdomen is clearly orange in flight as recorded on the video). One is left with finding a suitable explanation. Perhaps the cicada mistook the moth as a competitor or partner, since it appeared to be the same size, colour and shape, or was the cicada trying to object to the moth being on its own patch? In any case the tree trunk where this occurred could not have been any better for the moth, for it was on the north side and 90% covered in lichen such that it was remarkably camouflaged. Despite its amazing camouflage, the cicada had obviously seen the moth. If anyone has heard of a cicada-moth interaction I would like to hear of it. JOHN FELTWELL, Marlham, Henley's Down, Battle, East Sussex TN33 9BN.